

# The King Revealed - From Unknown to Throne

## I am...Alive - Part 6

April 4, 2021 – Resurrection Sunday

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### Main Text

#### Luke 24:6-8

<sup>6</sup> He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." <sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words,

#### John 11:25-26

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

### Background

There is no faith on the face of the earth that has a message like Christianity:

- God dies for humanity
- Forgiveness
- Hope
- Redemption
- Eternal life.

### Central Truth

What the King declares about Himself, provides us with the clearest understanding of His true identity.

### John, the Beloved Disciple and His Gospel

Is there anyone more qualified than John to communicate the divine nature of Christ? The Gospel of John is based around the seven "I Am's" of Christ. These are the seven "I am" statements in John to go along with the seven miracles and the seven sayings of the cross.

#### Significance of "I AM" - "I Am" – The Title

In the Greek Bible, "I am" ("ego eimi" in Greek) can either be what it appears to be, a **simple verb introducing a statement about oneself or one's identity, or an echo of the divine name "YHWH."**

In Exodus 3, Moses encounters a bush ablaze at Horeb, the mountain of God, in the middle of the wilderness in which he is shepherding for his father-in-law Jethro. A voice speaks to him out of the fire, the voice of God giving him a mission to free the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. Moses asks for a sign to give to the people when they challenge him: "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" God's answer is to reveal His true name **YHWH for the first time -- as NRSV renders it, "I AM WHO I AM"** -- and God continues, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you'". So, in the Hebrew Bible, both in the original language and in Hebrew translation, "I am" is often found in theophanies, stories of God's revelation to God's people, as in Exodus 12:12, where God declares, "I am the Lord" as part of His commands to keep the Passover.

John's Gospel contains two groups of I AM sayings that fall into these two categories, either figurative statements about Jesus and His identity or apparent reflections of Old Testament theophanies, a usage markedly different from that of the other Gospels. The two "I AM" sayings that echo the divine name YHWH are John 6:20 and John 18:5.

- This title was first given to Moses at the burning bush, when Moses asked God, "Who are you and, "Whom shall I say sent me?"
- When Jesus was asked who He was by the religious, He said, "Before Abraham, "I am"
- "If I be lifted up" – I am (John 8:58) Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

**What did Jesus say about Himself and what does that tell us about Him?**

**1. I am the Resurrection – Resurrection is a person**

- a) The resurrection of Jesus is central to Christianity** – without a resurrected Messiah there is no basis for the faith
- b) Raised to life again – that which was dead is alive**
- c) The Resurrection is a person**
- d) We love His birth but without the resurrection it is meaningless
- e) The content of the resurrection is life from and over death.

**Resurrection Defined: [G386](#) (Strong)**

ἀνάστασις anastasis - *an-as'-tas-is*

From G450; a **standing up again**, that is, (literally) a **resurrection from death** (individual, general or by implication (its author)), or (figuratively) a (moral) *recovery* (of spiritual truth): - **raised to life again**, resurrection, rise from the dead, that should rise, rising again. **Total KJV occurrences: 42**

**Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life** — "*The whole power to restore, impart, and maintain life, resides in Me.*" (See on John 1:4; see on John 5:21). **What higher claim to supreme divinity than this grand saying can be conceived? (Jamieson-Fausset-Brown)**

**I am the resurrection and the life**

"The words *I am* are very significant. Martha had stated the resurrection rather as *a doctrine, a current tenet*: Jesus states it as *a fact*, identified with His own person. **He does not say, I raise the dead; I perform the resurrection**, but *I am* the resurrection, In His own person, representing humanity, He exhibits man as immortal, but immortal only through union with Him." (Vincent word study)

## 2. I am the Bread of Life

- a. The King is the one who spiritually sustains us
- b. The One who gave the children of Israel manna in the wilderness is the Bread of Heaven
- c. Sustenance, sustaining power, *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)*
- d. Exodus 16:35 ESV - <sup>35</sup> The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

## 3. I am the light of the world

- a. The King gives us spiritual understanding and wisdom for life
  - Illumination and enlightenment
- b. *When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)*
- c. Literally this means that those who join Jesus as one of His followers will not be ignorant of spiritual matters but will have the power of understanding especially of the spiritual truth that brings eternal life. Whatever the spiritual question, Jesus is the answer.
- d. Light
  - i. Light comes from God (Genesis 1:3)
  - ii. God is light (Psalm 27:1)
  - iii. God's Word enlightens our path (Psalm 119:105)
  - iv. God can turn darkness into light (Isaiah 42:16)
  - v. Christians are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14)
  - vi. Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12)
  - vii. Light shines in the hearts of Christians (2 Corinthians 4:6)
  - viii. Christians are children of light (Ephesians 5:8)<sup>1</sup>

## 4. I am the door

- a. The King gives us free access to His Kingdom
  - Access, openness, entry
- b. *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. (John 10:9)*
- c. *The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in. ~ Unknown*
- d. This is a reference to the Kingdom and recalls the words of Psalm 23:2, *"He makes me lie down in green pasture."* Salvation is found through Jesus, He is the gate to the Kingdom, and no one can enter except through Him (John 3:3, John 14:6). Having entered through Him we will have the freedom to come and go as we please, dwelling in a state of peace in the midst of plenty.

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<sup>1</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

- e. Illustration: If I told you that there is an emergency and that you could only leave by one door -what would you do? But people argue:
- What does he know?
  - Who died and left you on charge?
  - We can make our own door
  - I am too far from that door
  - There are plenty of doors here
  - We will take our chances – we are good people
  - No one will tell me what to do
  - I will show him.

## 5. I am the Good Shepherd

- a. The Shepherd King lays down His own life for the sheep and opens the gate of eternal life
- Protection, guidance and leadership

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* (John 10:11)

No one expects sheep to be responsible for themselves. Owners hire shepherds for that purpose. A shepherd's job is to accept responsibility for the safety and well-being of his flock. Most shepherds only take that to the point where it would threaten their personal safety, rightly deciding that their life is worth more than that of a sheep. A few would be willing to risk their lives to protect their sheep, but our Shepherd knowingly and willingly died to save us because there was no other way.

## 6. I am the way, the truth, and the life

- a. The King pays the price - There is no other way into the presence of God than by accepting the Lord's death as payment in full for our sins.
- b. The three-fold cord of the reality of the King
- c. Jesus says He is the LIFE twice in the seven sayings – the only thing He repeats.

### **John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

**Way** - (direction, pathway, movement) + manner

- "Hodos" – implies - progress, the route, distance/figuratively – mode, means, journey, highway

**Truth** – in opposition to false religions and the law of Moses which was only a shadow  
*Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. ~ Clarence W. Hall*

- "**Aletheia**" - verity – the perfect revelation of God

**Life** - "**Zoe**" – life and time – lasting and eternal

- Liveliness is not life
- View life through the lens of eternity.

## 7. I am the true vine

- a. Abiding in the presence of the King, who is the source of life
- b. Through the King we are fruitful
- c. Fruitfulness over success and progress over performance.

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)*

It is important to understand that salvation is not a fruit bearing event, so in this statement Jesus was talking about our life after we are saved. Of course, a non-believer cannot bear fruit, and even after we are saved, believers are not automatically fruitful. But if we yield our life to Him (Romans 12:1-2) and respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit He sent to guide us (John 14:26) we can bear much fruit.

If not, our lives will be unfruitful, because without Him we can do nothing of spiritual value. We will still be saved, but we will be of no more use to the work of the Kingdom than the unfruitful branches the gardener discards at pruning time. Paul confirmed this in 1Corinthians 3:12-15. The unfruitful believer will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. Fruitfulness is not a matter of success or failure from a worldly standpoint. It is a matter of motive. Many of us will see some of our greatest accomplishments burn in the fires of judgment because we achieved them with wrong motives such as self-satisfaction, or recognition from others, or even a desire to "make points" with God. Only those things that are prompted by the Holy Spirit and where our only motive is gratitude for all we have been given will survive.

### **1Corinthians 4:5**

*Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.*

## Conclusion

### **1Corinthians 15:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. <sup>20</sup> But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. <sup>21</sup> So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. <sup>22</sup> Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. <sup>23</sup> But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

Paul said we are the most miserable of all men.

### **1Corinthians 15:7**

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

*Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, "Christ is risen," but "I shall rise." ~ Phillips Brooks*

## Quotes

*"The first person into paradise was a criminal – grace forgives your past and re-writes your future" - Dr Tony Soldano*

*Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. ~ Clarence W. Hall*

*The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in. ~ Unknown*

*We live and die; Christ died and lived! ~ John Stott*

*Christ has not only spoken to us by his life but has also spoken for us by his death. ~ Soren Kierkegaard*

*If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:14*

*Jesus did not die on the cross just so we could live comfortable, well-adjusted lives. His purpose is far deeper: He wants to make us like himself before he takes us to heaven. This is our greatest privilege, our immediate responsibility and our ultimate destiny. ~Rick Warren*

*Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. ~ Martin Luther*

*Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection. ~Watchman Nee*

*Easter is always the answer to "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me!" ~Madeleine L'Engle*

*We must not forget that it wasn't the Jews that put him on the cross, and it wasn't the Romans. It was my sins, it was your sins, the sins of this world. ~ Franklin Graham*

*A dead Christ I must do everything for; a living Christ does everything for me. ~ Andrew Murray*

*Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, "Christ is risen," but "I shall rise." ~ Phillips Brooks*

*"He is risen; he is not here." ~ Mark 16:6*

*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ~ Jesus Christ, John 11:25, 26*

## Questions & Discussion

- 1) Discuss all seven points and apply them to Christ and to your life personally. How is He all things? What does it look like practically?
- 2) Is Jesus the voice that spoke to Moses out of the burning bush?
- 3) Why were the religious so upset that Jesus said, "Before Abraham, I am"?
- 4) Why does Jesus say that He is the life multiple times?